



ASSEMBLYMEMBER

**NICOLE PARRA**

Representing the 30th Assembly District

***Parra Notes******February 13, 2007***

Hello Fiends,

Last week I joined my Democratic colleagues on a four-day policy retreat entitled “**Building on our Success: The Road Ahead,**” where we focused on educating the caucus and building consensus on key issues facing the State. Discussions of these important issues were led by experts in order to provide as much information as possible to everyone present.

Presentations included sessions on health care by California Healthcare Foundation **Dr. Mark Smith** and Pacific Business Group on Health CEO **Peter Lee**; water supply and flood protection featuring Public Policy Institute of California Program Director **Ellen Hanak** and South San Francisco Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project **Steve Ritchie**; Legislative Analyst **Elizabeth Hill** discussing the state’s structural deficit; **Joan Petersilia**, UC Irvine professor and author of Understanding California Corrections, who presented on the crisis in the state’s prison system; implementation of the state’s pioneering greenhouse gas emissions law from California EPA **Secretary Linda Adams** and Air Resources Board Executive Officer **Catherine Witherspoon**; K-12 education policy; and a discussion of the “netroots” movement by Daily Kos and “Crashing the Gate” author **Markos Moulitsas**.

The retreat provided an opportunity for the caucus, which has 24 new members this year, to get to know each other and better understand the policy views of our colleagues. I am very excited about the year ahead, which will be filled with hard work and results that will greatly benefit the people of California

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**FREEZE UPDATE**

The devastating freeze continues to effect farmers and farmworkers across the State. In an effort to maximize access and availability to relief I have had **Teresa Plascencia** and **Mina Tovar**, from my Hanford and Bakersfield District Offices respectively, work with local agencies to coordinate efforts and make all available information to those seeking assistance.

This week Teresa and Mina attended local freeze response **meetings in Kern County** in order to update those in attendance of the ongoing efforts to provide relief to individuals affected by the freeze. During discussions they clarified opportunities to receive assistance and helped facilitate conversations between different agencies and organizations providing relief in order to open the lines of communication and provide as much assistance as possible.

For questions about assistance in Kings, Fresno, or Tulare Counties please contact Teresa Plascencia at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at [Teresa.Plascencia@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Teresa.Plascencia@asm.ca.gov)

For questions about assistance in Kern County please contact Mina Tovar at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at [Mina.Tovar@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Mina.Tovar@asm.ca.gov)

**Freeze-Related Unemployment Insurance Claims by County for the 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District:**

[Click here visit the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services Website](#)

**Assembly Committee on Agriculture – \*\*\*IMPORTANT NEWS\*\*\***

The Assembly and Senate Agriculture Committee will be holding a **joint hearing on February 27<sup>th</sup>** to discuss the **2006 E-Coli outbreaks** and the steps that can be taken to prevent future outbreaks. As details are finalized I will be updating you all with an agenda, time, and location of the hearing. I look forward to working with all those involved to protect consumers from illness and restore the credibility and desirability of California produce.

**Important Notes for the Valley**

Before the retreat last week I had the opportunity to meet with the **US Receiver Bob Sillien** to discuss the issues associated with the prison health care system. Also in attendance were Corcoran Journal publisher **Jennett Todd, Darrell Frey**, Executive Director of the Corcoran Chamber of Commerce, **Jess Martinez** Corcoran District Hospital Board, **Jim Knight**, CEO Corcoran Hospital, and **Bob Sanders from Congressman Costa’s Office**.

I was also able to meet with **Matt Moretti** from AT&T to discuss the upcoming legislative session and the progress made between local government and the telecommunications industry.

**Legislative Update**

In the coming weeks this new section will keep you all up to date on my legislative package, including bill numbers and a brief synopsis of bills that are important to the state and to the 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District.

You can expect to see bills that will do a variety of things; from increasing methamphetamine penalties to increasing penalties on individuals who make, watch and distribute child pornography, from protecting funding of our deployed soldiers to protecting our military veterans when they return home, and much, much more.

- **AB 27** – Places The Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley in statute in order to make it a permanent body to oversee and make recommendations for the continued economic development of the San Joaquin Valley.
- **ACR 12** - Calls upon the Public Utilities Commission and the state's utilities providers to allow citrus growers to defer their utilities payments – without interest – if their crops were destroyed in the January 2007 freeze.

As with all of our bills, your letters of support are critical to success in the legislative process. If you or your group or company would like to lend your support to a bill, please send a letter to:

California State Capitol  
Re: Letter of Support  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249

**When Visiting Sacramento**

As always, thank you to everyone who stops by my office. As a reminder, next time you find yourself in Sacramento stop by my new office and say hello. The office is now located on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor in room 5155. If I’m unavailable please leave your business card with my staff and I will do my best to get in contact with you.

If you know anyone who would enjoy receiving Parra Notes please have them e mail [Brandon Sanders](#) so they can be included in our distribution list.

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### Meeting Requests

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Anna Goddard** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at [Anna.Goddard@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Anna.Goddard@asm.ca.gov).

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### Interns Wanted

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at: [Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov).

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at: [Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov)

For Sacramento office internships contact **Anna Goddard** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at: [Anna.Goddard@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Anna.Goddard@asm.ca.gov).

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